

144: ...



SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



ADLARD 115

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Previously:

Rick is lead into the Whisperer camp, where he finds Carl safe. But Carl is adamant that he won't leave without Lydia. Alpha introduces herself, bloody machete in hand, and brings Rick to the top of a nearby building... showing him the horde of walkers she'll unleash on his people if they don't stay away.

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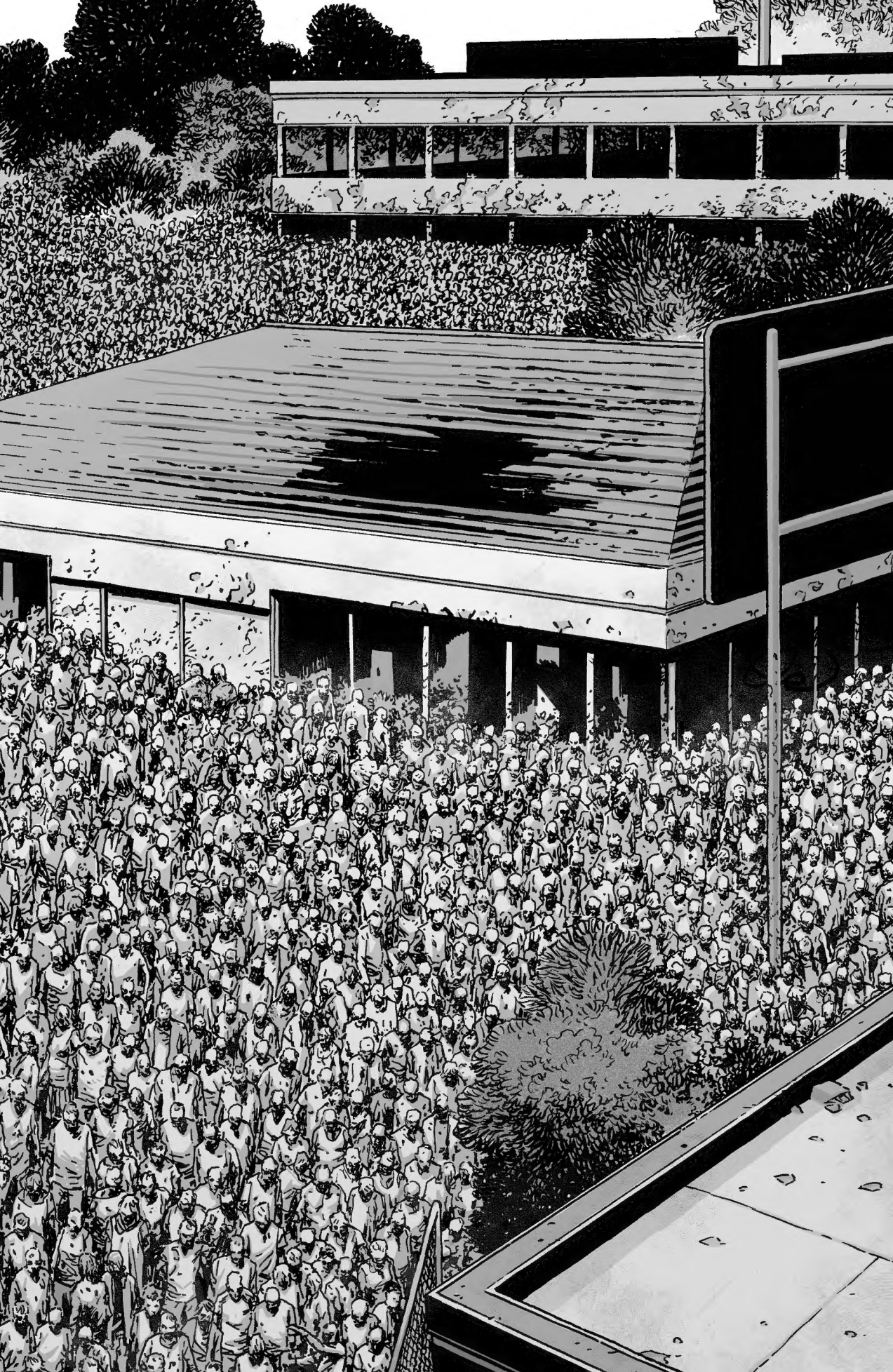
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STEP BACK
BEFORE YOU
CATCH THEIR
ATTENTION.

MY PEOPLE
ARE AMONG
THEM, STEERING
THEM... BUT THEY
CAN ONLY DO
SO MUCH.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



RIGHT NOW I WANT TO GET OFF
THIS BUILDING BEFORE YOU MAKE
ME SHOOT YOU AND BRING ALL
THOSE THINGS DOWN
ON TOP OF ME.



OKAY,
WE'RE
CLEAR...

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
FROM
US?



FROM
YOU?

NOTHING.

YOU DON'T
HAVE A
SINGLE THING
TO OFFER
US.





I'VE SEEN
HOW YOU LIVE.
I'VE WALKED
YOUR STREETS.
IT'S A
JOKE.

LIFE IS
BLOOD AND
PAIN AND
SACRIFICE.

YOU THINK
YOU HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED
SO MUCH, BUT I LOOK
AROUND AT WHAT
YOU'VE DONE... AND I
SEE **CHILDREN**
PLAYING A GAME OF
MAKE BELIEVE.



YOU'VE BUILT
A **SHRINE** TO
A LONG DEAD
WORLD.



...

WE ARE **ANIMALS** WHO
ALWAYS **PRETENDED**
WE ARE NOT.

YOU WORK AND TOIL
YOUR DAYS AWAY... WORKING
TOWARD RESTORING A LIFE
WHERE YOU EXERCISE SO YOU CAN
SIT IN A CHAIR AND LET A BOX LIE
TO YOU UNTIL ALL YOUR
THOUGHTS ARE **GONE.**



MY PEOPLE?
THE WHISPERERS...
OUR LIVES ARE
TRUE. WE LIVE THE
FULL LIVES WE WERE
ALWAYS **MEANT**
TO.

YOU STRIVE
TO RETURN TO A
LIFE AS **SLAVES** TO
OUR PETTY DESIRES...
INSTEAD OF
RECOGNIZING THE
GIFT THIS WORLD
HAS TO OFFER.

THE **GIFT OF**
FREEDOM.

YOU'RE SO FULL
OF SHIT. DO YOU
EVEN REALIZE
IT?

THOSE
PEOPLE BACK
THERE... WHO CALL
YOU **ALPHA**?
THOSE PEOPLE
ARE **FREE**?

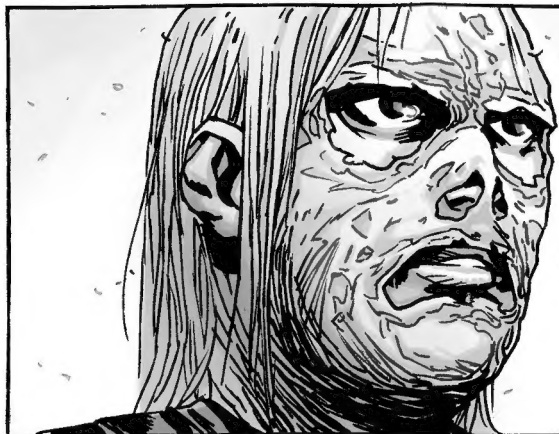


THEY
ARE.



FREE TO WEAR HUMAN SKIN?
SLEEP OUT IN THE COLD?
THIS IS ALL JUST BULLSHIT TO
KEEP THE SHEEP IN LINE
AND ANSWERING
TO YOU.

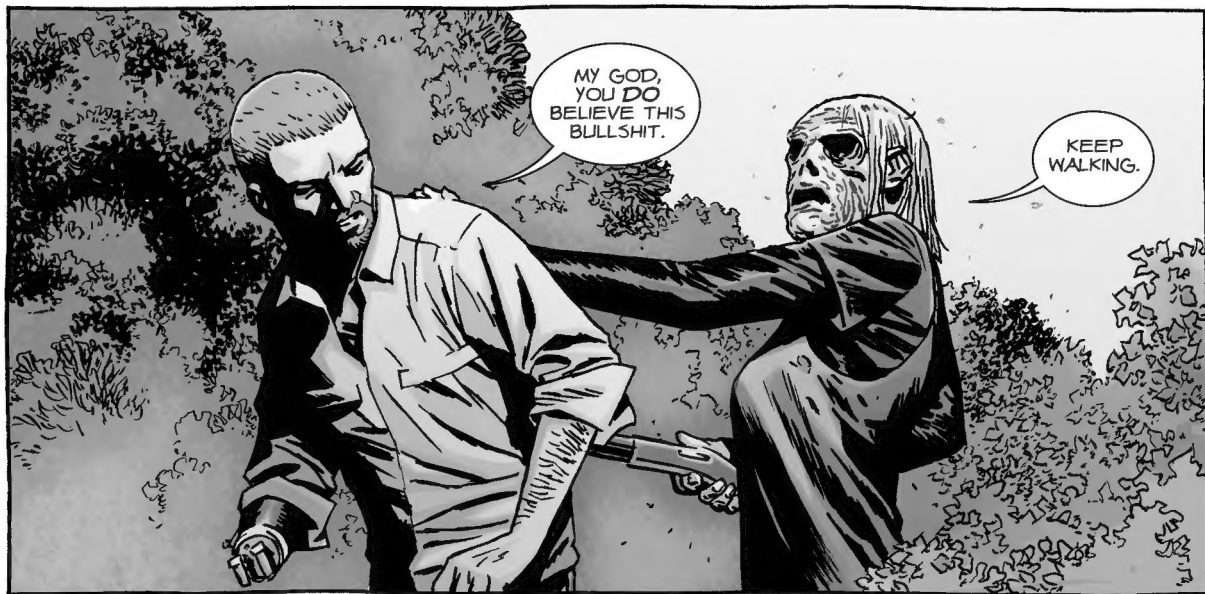
IT'S SOME
OVERBLOWN
POWER
TRIP.



WE ARE ANIMALS,
RICK GRIMES... AND
ANIMALS NEED A
LEADER. THERE IS
THE DOMINANT AND
THE SUBMISSIVE.
THE ALPHA AND
THE BETA.

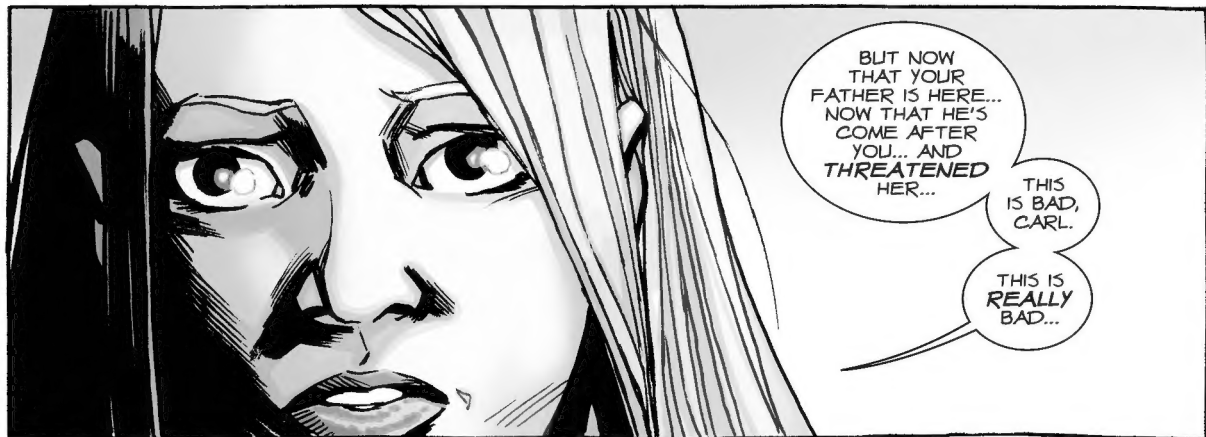
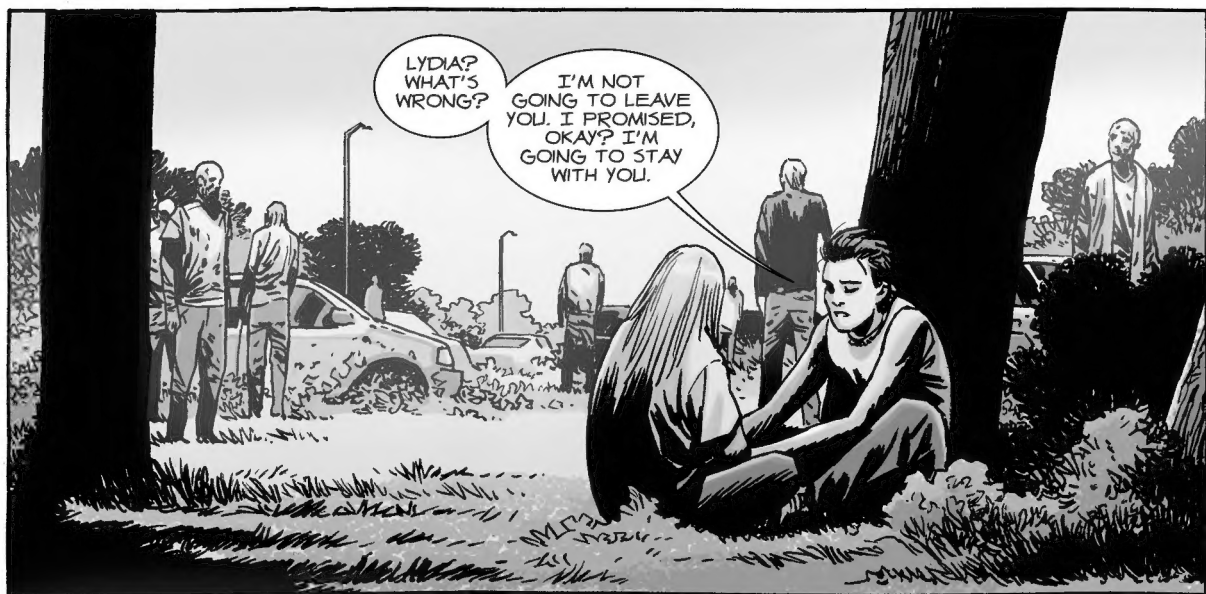
IF THE
ALPHA DOESN'T
ASSERT ITSELF...
THERE IS
CHAOS.

I ONLY FILL
THE ROLE AS
NEEDED, UNTIL
ANOTHER STEPS
UP AND **TAKES**
IT FROM
ME.



MY GOD,
YOU **DO**
BELIEVE THIS
BULLSHIT.

KEEP
WALKING.





CARL.
WE'RE
LEAVING.



NOT
WITHOUT
LYDIA.

WE HAVE A CHANCE TO
GO... IN PEACE. I'M NOT
LEAVING WITHOUT YOU.
LYDIA'S PLACE IS WITH
HER MOTHER AND
HER PEOPLE.



I WILL
CARRY YOUR
ASS OUT OF
HERE IF I
HAVE TO,
SON.



LYDIA ISN'T SAFE
HERE. AT NIGHT...
SOMETIMES THE
MEN DO THINGS TO
HER... AND HER
MOTHER LETS
THEM.



...



IS...
IS THAT
TRUE?



I PLACE MY HAND AROUND YOUR **THROAT**. IT WILL CAUSE YOU DISCOMFORT AND IT WILL **SCARE** YOU. IF I **SQUEEZE** HARD ENOUGH IT WILL CAUSE YOU PAIN... AND IT WILL EVEN LEAVE A MARK.

BUT THOSE MARKS WILL HEAL.

YOU WILL REMEMBER THE PAIN... HOW IT MADE YOU FEEL... BUT YOU'LL MOVE ON, AND IN TIME YOU WILL FORGET.

WHATEVER **EMOTION** REMAINS... IS NOT WORTHY OF WHO WE **TRULY** ARE. YOU MAY REMEMBER THE PAIN AND DWELL ON IT... ALLOW IT TO **CONSUME** YOU...

...THAT WOULD BE BECAUSE YOU ARE **WEAK**.

WE HERE, THE WHISPERERS... WE ARE NOT.

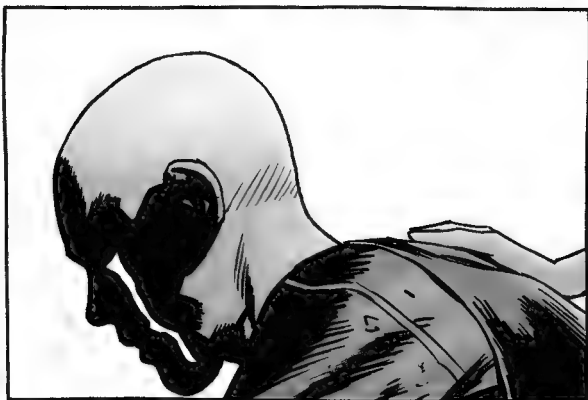
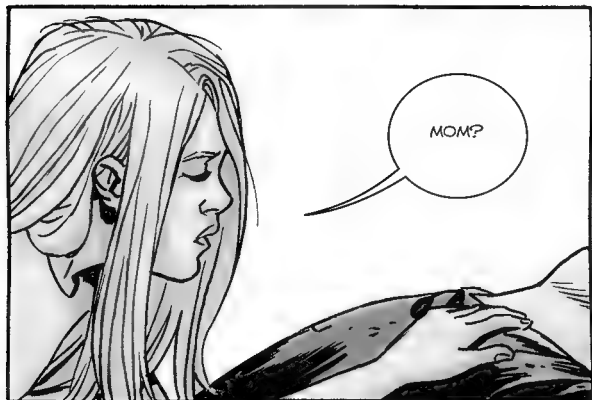
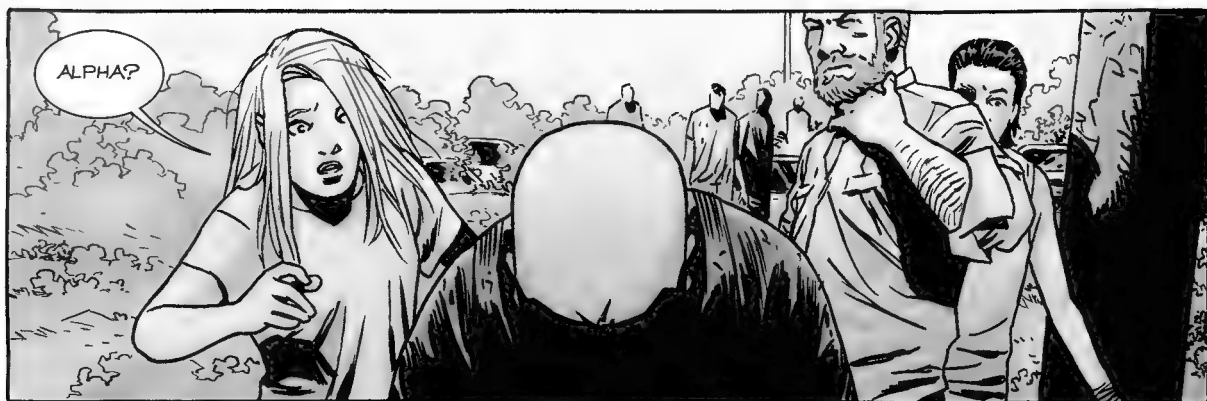
WE DON'T ALLOW THE **INTELLIGENCE** EVOLUTION HAS GIVEN US TO MAKE US **WEAK**.

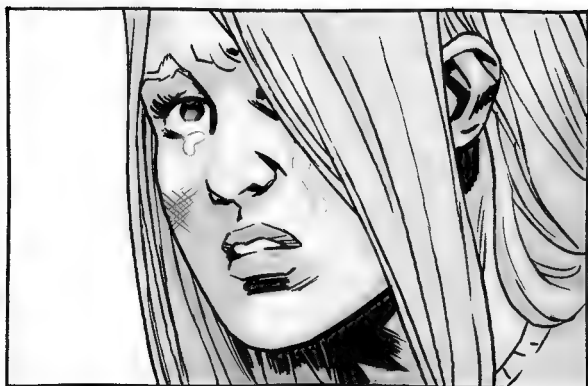
WE DON'T LOOK AT THE WORLD THE WAY WE USED TO... THE WAY PEOPLE THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO.

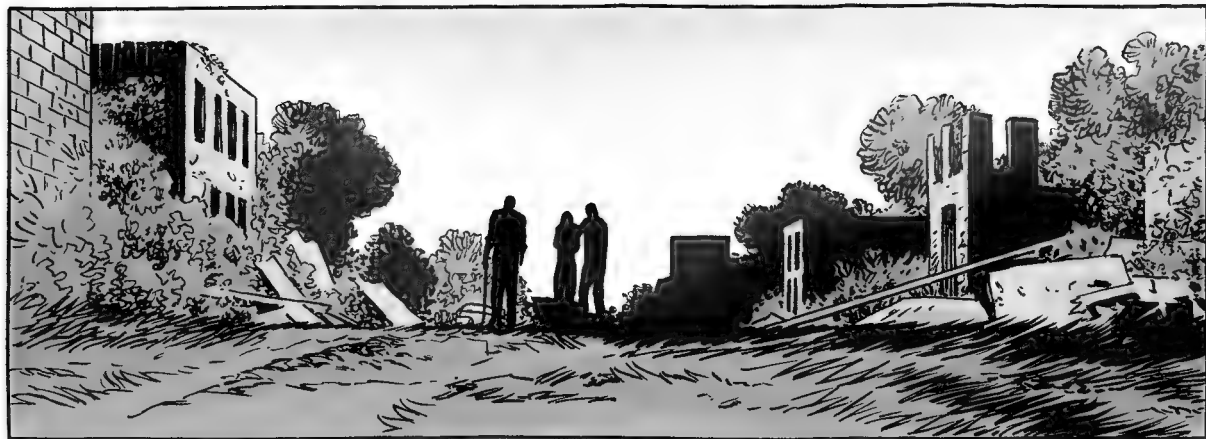
THIS ISN'T A WORLD FOR **VICTIMS**.

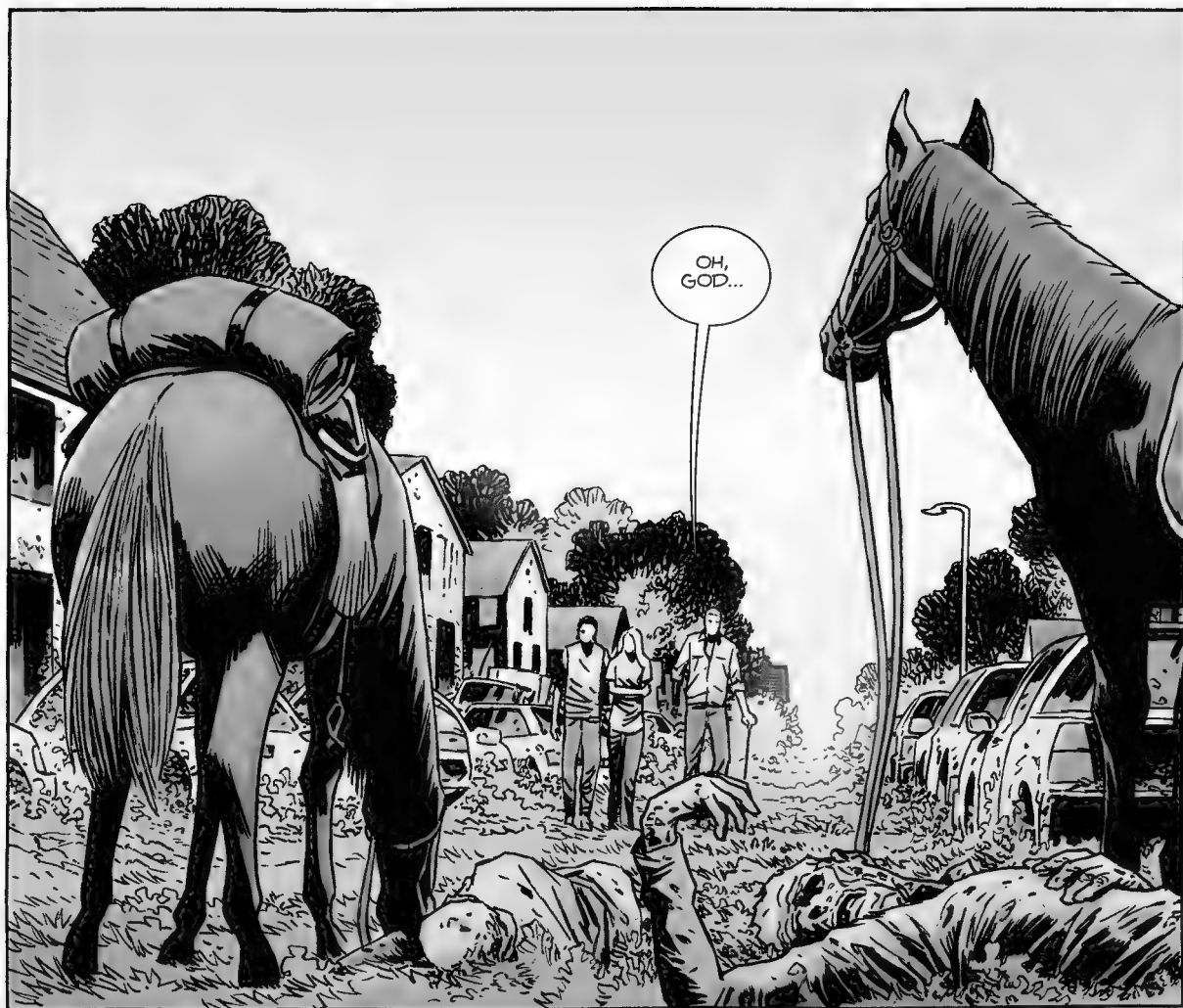
THIS IS A WORLD... FOR...

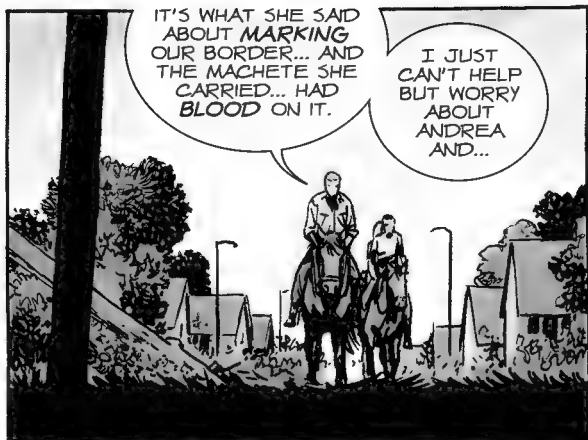
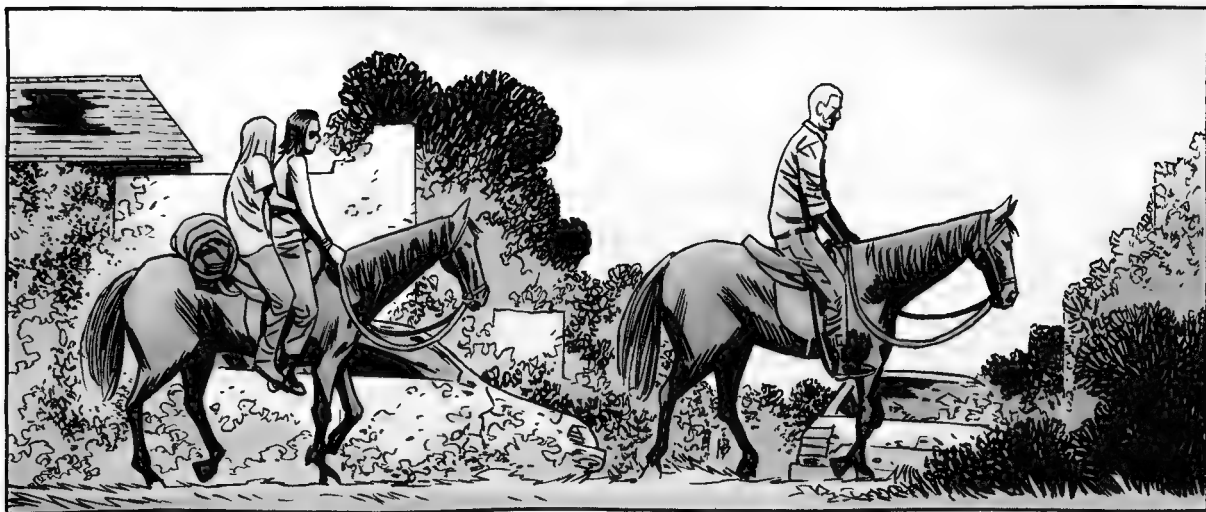
THE **STRONG**.







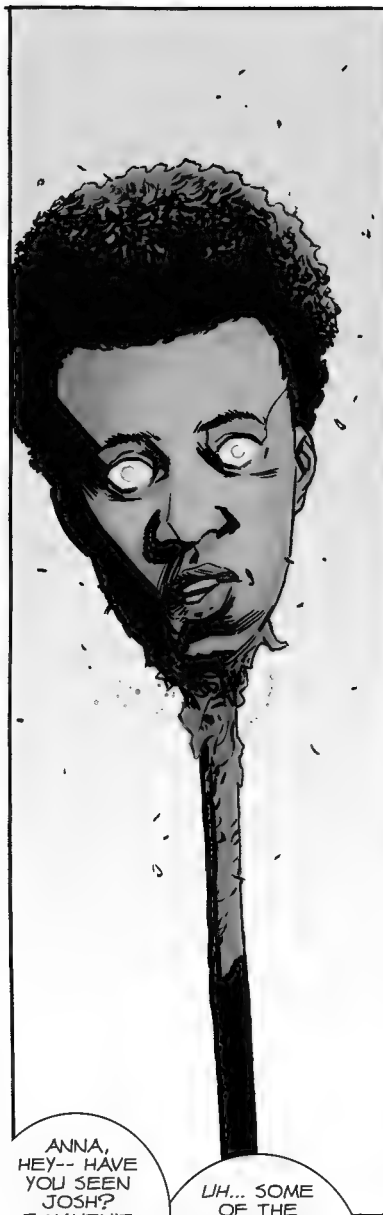








NO, NO, HER
BREAD IS GREAT...
I'M JUST NOT SO
THRILLED ABOUT
OLIVIA ABANDONING
ME AT THE BOOTH
ALL DAY.



ANNA,
HEY-- HAVE
YOU SEEN
JOSH?
I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM
SINCE THIS
MORNING.

UH... SOME
OF THE
KIDS WERE
BEHIND THE
CHURCH. I THINK
THEY WERE
DRINKING...
JOSH MIGHT
BE WITH
THEM.



HAVE YOU
SEEN MY
BROTHER
LATELY?



UNLESS HE
WAS HIDING IN
THIS ONE'S DIAPER,
I DON'T KNOW HOW
I'D HAVE SEEN HIM.
THIS IS MY FIRST
CHANCE TO WALK
AROUND, DOCTOR
CARSON.



TAMMY!

MOM?!



WE SHOULD
FIND LUKE
AND KELLY
AND CONNIE...
GRAB SOME
DINNER. I'M
STARVING.



NO, GODDAMN
IT, I WON'T CALM
DOWN. THIS WAS
HER FUCKING IDEA...
LET'S HAVE A BAKE
SALE... AND
WHERE THE FUCK
IS SHE?!



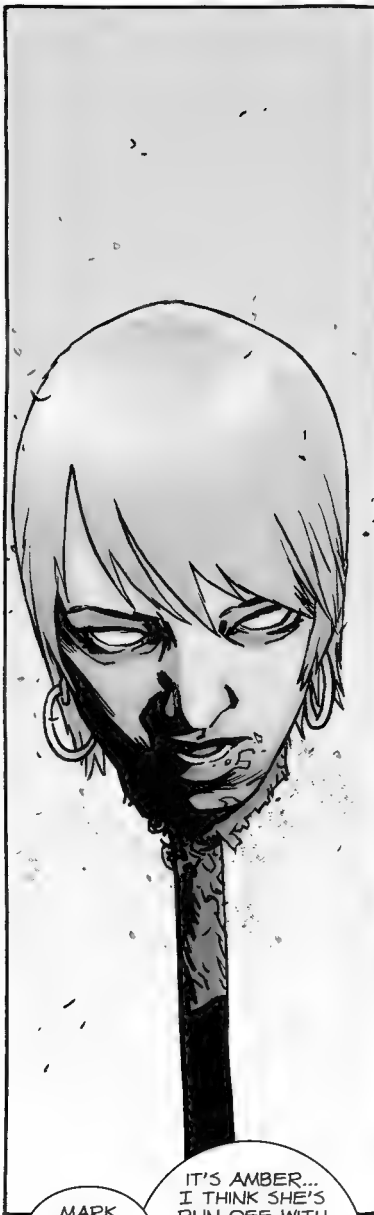
KELLY AND
CONNIE ARE OFF
WORKING UP AN
APPETITE, I'M SURE.
LUKE IS PROBABLY
SOMEWHERE CRYING
INTO HIS PILLOW
BECAUSE YOU STILL
HAVEN'T SLEPT
WITH HIM.



ERIN IS
A FUCKING
BITCH.



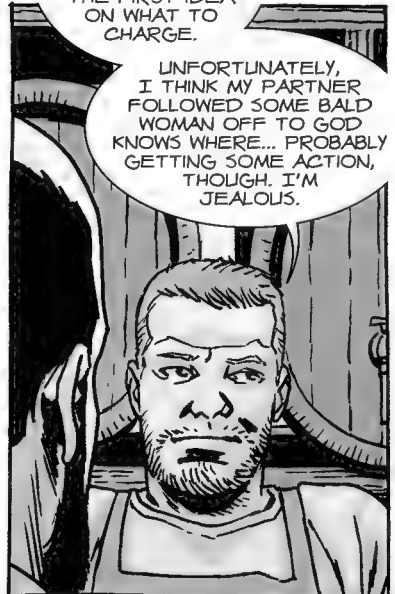
WHAT THE
FUCK, KEN?
WAY TO LEAVE
A GUY
HANGING...



MARK,
WHAT'S
WRONG?
IT'S AMBER...
I THINK SHE'S
RUN OFF WITH
SOMEONE ELSE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN
HER ALL DAY... AND
LOOK AT ME?
WHY WOULDN'T
SHE LEAVE
ME?



THAT MUCH?
SHIT... AN ORDER
THAT LARGE? WE
CAN DO IT, BUT
I WOULDN'T HAVE
THE FIRST IDEA
ON WHAT TO
CHARGE.



UNFORTUNATELY,
I THINK MY PARTNER
FOLLOWED SOME BALD
WOMAN OFF TO GOD
KNOWS WHERE... PROBABLY
GETTING SOME ACTION,
THOUGH. I'M
JEALOUS.



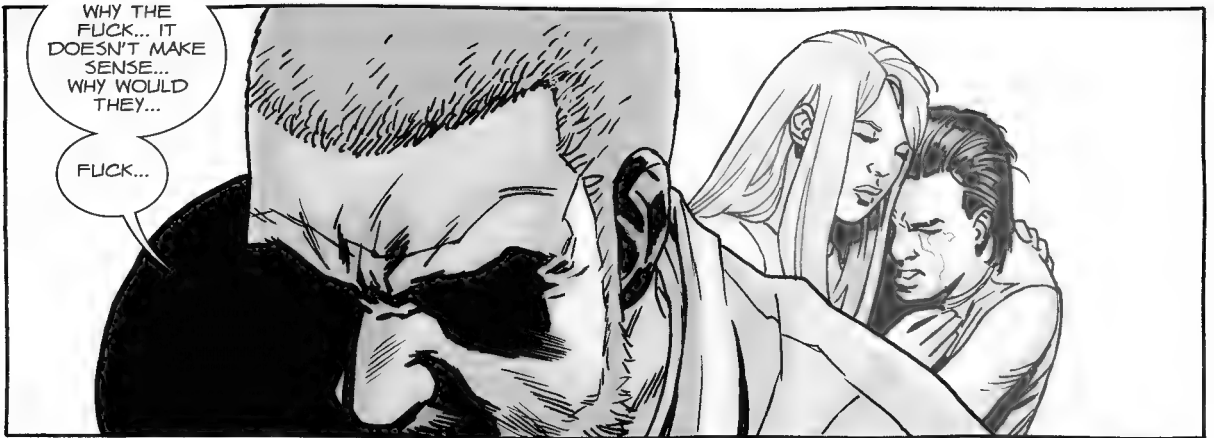
THAT'S JUST
POOR PLANNING.
THEY KNEW EVERYONE
WOULD BE BRINGING
HORSES HERE. SEND
OSCAR BACK TO THE
HILLTOP WITH A CART
TO GET SOME OF
OUR FEED.



I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM.







...WHAT
DO WE DO
NOW?



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

"Oh. My. God...." – Charlie

"Holy crap" – Stefano

These were our artists' responses after reading the script... which is hopefully what you're feeling right now. I'm honestly not sure what else can be said here, in terms of what Rick and his allies are about to face. But as our partners at Telltale are fond of saying, "No good deed goes unpunished."

I felt like it was a good way to end the third compendium. I love that there are readers who have set themselves up for 4-year cliffhangers.

Onto the letters!

Hey Guys

So I wanted to comment that the Rick / Maggie conversation seemed a little fishy. It felt a little convenient that she neglected to mention that Gregory was executed. Like obviously at first he's way too distracted about Carl, but he calms down when he learns that Gregory tried to kill her, that would have been the expected time to also inform him that they had Gregory executed. Did Maggie do it on purpose??

Yes. Definitely. She's in no hurry to reveal that to him. But also, Rick was pretty much running for Carl at that point.

I really am enjoying this arc, I think it's even better than All Out War, which is something I never thought I'd say.

Thanks for everything in the last 7-8 years of my reading!

Johnny

Here's to at least 7 or 8 more!

It's about time an Arab character was introduced to the Walking Dead. I can't wait to see what contribution Siddiq may have to the stories. This is going to be... so... Rad!

In the past couple months, we've dug into his story a little bit more... where he came from, what his deal is... You'll just have to wait and see when/where/if that's revealed.

Also, we know how Negan is doing, but I'm concerned about Lucille. How's she doing? Is she still alive? We haven't heard anything about her yet (that I'm aware of).

Regards,
Ismail Gomaa

Lucille's whereabouts are currently unrevealed... but it won't be that way forever. We'll get around to it eventually.

What the fuck is up with the no "previously" section at the front of issue 142? C'mon, I rely on those because of my shit memory. I had to go all the way to my closet and take out last issue from my comic box to help me remember. It was strenuous. I'm still recovering. But anyway, pretty decent comic, I guess.

Adam D. Baldwin

Hamilton, ON

Since all of you were deprived of my hard work by some goblins at the printer... I'll print it here for the first time ever...

Previously: See THE WALKING DEAD #141.

Nice one, Sean.

You are the best, keep uploading!!!

Archie Cooper

This is some old school letters page trolling right here! We'll throw your ass in prison one day, Cooper!

We're not the ones doing the uploading! Unless you're doing the downloading legally! Archie Cooper... we're watching you!

Robert,

First of all, I'd just like to say that your book continues to blow me away with an amazingly intricate plot and art that leaves me staring at each page for 5 minutes (that's you Charlie!!!). I wrote to you a long time ago about trying the beef jerky with stroganoff. Sadly, I've only had it twice since then.

You made it more than once?!

Ok, now that that's over with, I have a few questions I hope you can answer. With our survivors now having access to a fishing vessel and exploring the seas, is it possible we'll see some of our group or a new group living on an island? Also, couldn't they ride up and down the coast looking for a vessel that's worthy to cross the ocean? They could try to find survivors in other countries and re-establish intercontinental trade.

Intercontinental trade sounds a bit more ambitious than their current fleet is probably capable of... but now would be a good time to mention the upcoming Telltale The Walking Dead three-episode miniseries, Michonne, starring... Michonne. That'll dig into some of the events that occurred between TWD #126 and TWD #139, which has her coming back from sea on Pete's boat.

Also, up until now, with the Whisperers, they've had a pretty good thing going with their current setup. There are so many people now, resources on a small island would be pretty strained. So it's not that practical.

Again, thanks for the books. They're excellent and I look forward to each and every issue. I've suggested the books to all of my friends who watch the show and haven't read them. Even gotten a few people hooked. Keep up the good work.

JD Shoe mate

You keep up the good work! Thanks for recommending the book to people!

To Robert and The Other People,

These are my first question so I would just like to say the comics are phenomenal. Okay so I have four questions.

1. Where in the freaking world can I find TWD Covers 2?!? Like is that even a real thing or is it a myth?? I found it on the internet but it is all "sold out" and some sites say they don't even carry it. It said it was released in July of 2013. Was it like a limited thing or like a comic con only type of deal?

Covers 2 never came out, and it's something we still talk about doing, but not yet. When it's finally on the schedule, we'll make sure everyone that wants one gets one. That has the money,

of course. Because it will be printed on non-uploadable paper stock, as well.

We really should put that back on the schedule. Sean... start pestering me about that. Charlie did his end... dig that up... make me do mine. We can make this happen!

Cutting Room Floor on the other hand...

2. Will you ever have The Walking Dead Weekly for issues 53-104?

We've talked about that recently... we do a lot of talking... and is that something folks want?

Walking Dead Weekly was selling very poorly by issue 52. That's why we ended up only doing it for one year. Also, at the time, doing it for another year would have had us very quickly reprinting issues that had been published very recently.

Had it sold better... I wanted to do it all the way up to the current issue, and then do a variant over the current issue with a TWD Weekly logo... that would have been funny.

3. Do you think Andrea and Rick are a better couple than Lori and Rick?

I'll be exploring this at some point eventually. Keep reading.

4. Are we gonna see more of the Kingdom? And maybe a special on the leaders (Douglas, Negan, Gregory, Ezekiel) like what happened before Rick was in their lives?

Thanks,
Eli Etten
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

We'll be seeing more of all the communities eventually, the Kingdom included. It's probably actually been developed the least. And there are so many big changes instore there after this issue and the death of Ezekiel.

Okay, Dante needs to fuck off. Nobody is going to replace Glenn - not on my watch. It may have been years since his death for Maggie with the time jump and all, but it's still a fresh wound for me, I'm not over it. Not to mention, those scenes on the show involving Glenn and baseball bats? FUCKED UP. Stay away from baseball bats, Glenn!

Jenna Southern
California

Dante's not such a bad guy... a bit of a horny bastard, but can you blame him? Is it your wish that Maggie never finds another shot at companionship? Because

here I was thinking her and Oscar were going to be a thing, and now that's just dust on the wind.

Give Dante a chance!

To Harry (Letter Hacks issue 142),

I'm sure writing that quip about the Australian aborigines felt like putting a figurative maraschino cherry atop your ice cream sunday of impressive farming knowledge. Unfortunately, rather than further elevate your intelligent and interesting analysis of our heroes' agricultural/economic quandary, this comment only serves to further an inaccurate and culturally-encapsulated stereotype of the oldest continuous culture on the planet.

To refer to the aborigines as "doomed to the primitive" assumes they would have chosen farming if only they could have. This ignores the fact of a 50,000+ year run thriving in a difficult environment, the vast majority of which is largely unsuited to any significant agricultural development. While agriculture has led to overcrowding and/or environmental devastation in many parts of the world, the Australian aborigines have lived in harmony with their land for eons. They have developed a rich heritage of visual and performing arts, elaborate spiritual traditions, an extensive taxonomy of regional flora and fauna, and have created effective medicines and medical procedures without the use of steel or plastic (Daniel Webster... pssssshhhh). Even now some may be found living reasonably comfortable lives with few or no modern amenities in parts of the Australian Outback no other group will ever likely populate.

These "doomed" primitives deserve respect.

Or maybe they always needed some tractors, a Walmart, and a McD's out there to get things rolling.

Otherwise, I loved your letter.

Mark

Greensboro, NC

P.S. Loving the development of this story arc. My sphincter contracted painfully even before I turned the page to see who was browsing the swords at the end of #142.

Friendly discourse on the accomplishments of the Aboriginal Australians... I'm with it.

Dear Mr. Kirkman et al, I get it. I know what you're doing. In fact, you may as well call this storyline the "it's not what you think" story. Every ending since issue 127 has ended with a clear expectation of what will happen next only to be followed with the opposite of that expectation.

I won't cite every example of course but the latest being the execution of Gregory by Maggie which came after Rick's "that's not who we are" speech, (thereby setting up a direct and serious conflict between the two in issue 141) but which was followed by Maggie's "never again" speech in 142 (which totally diffused said conflict). Well sir I for one approve. I've enjoyed every surprise. They've kept me on my toes and guessing. In fact, I find that you are once again working your magic with TWD. There is an underlying tension which pumps my blood full of adrenalin even in the quiet moments. There is political, social, psychological, emotional and physical danger lurking at every turn. I love it. The only problem is that now that I'm on to you I know not to expect any kind of war or conflict between Rick and Alpha, in spite of Rick charging off all hot headed to get Carl back. Especially now that Alpha has seen Rick's community. I mean she'd have to be a fool not to want to join in the seeming peace that Rick has created. Oh but wait,... Maybe that's what you're going to contradict. You devil you, you did it to me again, I have no idea where you're going.

I wasn't sure if you were really onto us, but it seems you're just punch drunk and dizzy. We'll keep you on your toes.

But I do know one thing. I love TWD. I just wish I didn't have to wait so long in between issues. Your effort to do the bi-weekly thing is deeply appreciated and helpful btw.

Frantz

Saddest news of the month... no more bi-weekly issues for a while. When I started at Skybound, one of the first things I approved at the printer was Compendium 2. Considering my previous experiences in comics, I did not think I'd still be here to see the printing of Compendium 3. Well, this issue fills out that collection (which goes to print next week), and that's only because this superhuman team of creators did four years of work in three years time. So not only did these bastards trick me into doing something I never thought I'd do, I'm looking forward to being here when it's time for Compendium 4. Onward to Compendium 4!

Music to my ears, Sean! Onward to Compendium 4!!

See you next month. I'm not going to lie... there's some heavy shit ahead.

-Sean Mackiewicz

Possibly a whole Compendium's worth!

-Robert Kirkman

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



SAGA #30
ON SALE NOW



INJECTION #3
ON SALE NOW



DESCENDER #5
ON SALE NOW

THE WALKING DEAD #145
ON SALE AUGUST 2015





AVAILABLE
NOW

"Ellis might be playing in someone else's sandbox, but he's taking the property into new territory. Fittingly, so is Lotay. This is only the beginning of what's sure to be an interesting examination of the superhero archetype."

—*Newsarama*

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—*Wired UK*



SUPREME WARREN ELLIS TULA LOTAY BLUE ROSE

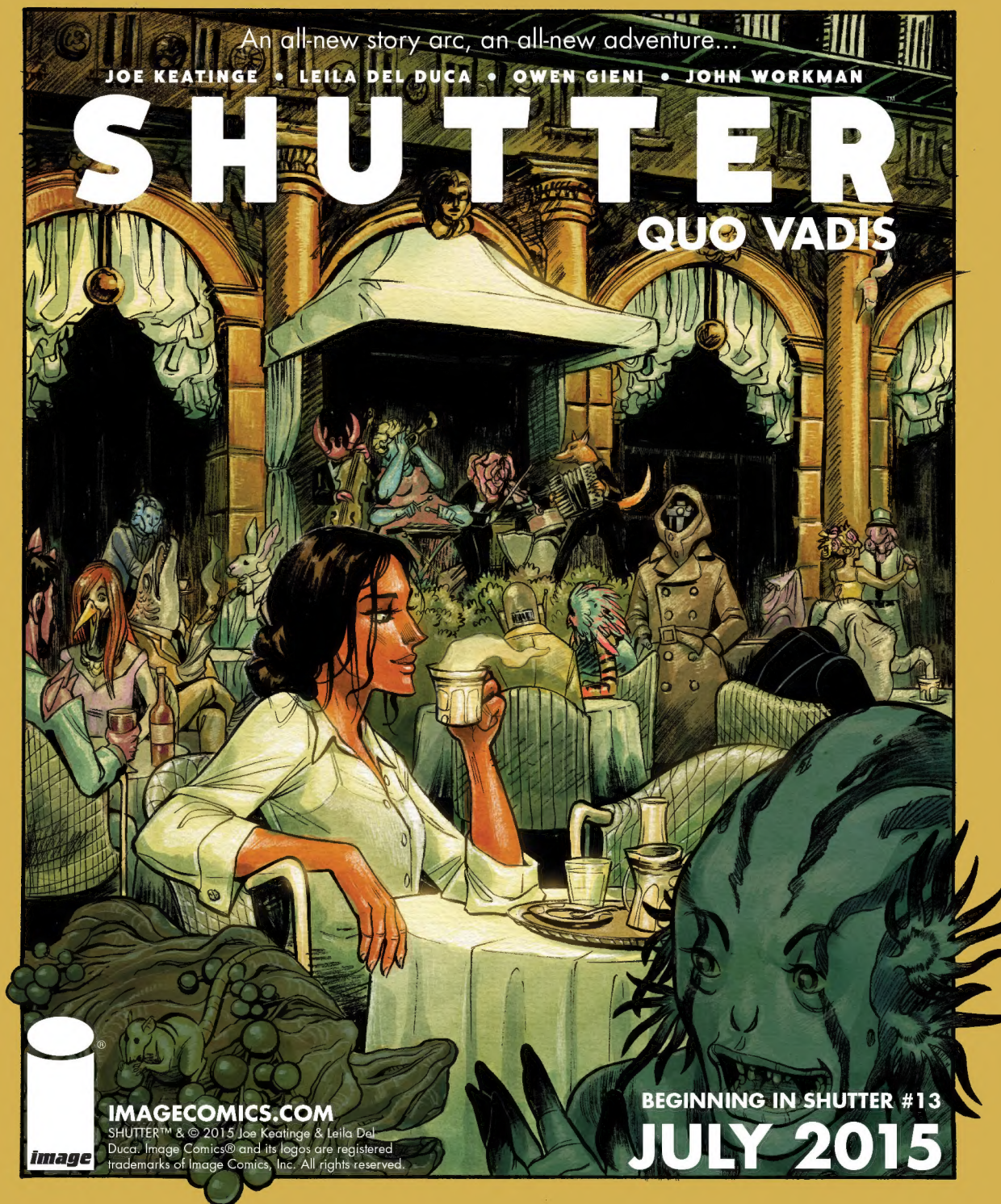
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SHUTTER

QUO VADIS



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